



Minnesota's 4th District **E-Report!**

Congresswoman Betty McCollum

"Serving Minnesota's Families"



MAY 23, 2003

Hot News!

Honoring Minnesota's Heroes on Memorial Day

This Memorial Day is a time to honor and pay our respects to the generations of Minnesotans who have served and sacrificed for our nation. From the Civil War to our on-going war against terrorism, Minnesotans have served and continue to serve to protect our freedom. While we pay tribute to the American heroes who have passed away, we must also remember the sacrifices of our veterans at home and our military men and women who continue to serve America's interests around the world.

Sacrifice is a familiar word to veterans, service men and women, and their family members. Our active duty soldiers, sailors and airmen, and our veterans deserve to be honored this Memorial Day and treated with respect everyday. An important part of my job in Congress is to ensure that our service men and women, as well as our veterans, have the best quality health care and services available.

Unfortunately, this is not the case as 12,000 people are currently suffering on waiting lists at veterans' medical centers in Minnesota because of government budget cuts.

The United States currently has hundreds of thousands of armed forces personnel serving across the globe. All of these brave men and women will eventually become veterans deserving to be honored for their service. Our government must honor its commitment to provide them quality veterans' health care when they come home.

Memorial Day comes once a year, but the supreme sacrifice made by so many courageous men and women for our freedom should be remembered everyday. We need to keep our promise, every single day, to all living veterans and active duty military families by protecting, defending and extending our commitment to provide quality veterans' health care to our American heroes.

Congresswoman Betty McCollum is a member of VVA, VFW Auxiliary, and the American Legion Auxiliary.



Rep. Betty McCollum was joined by Sen. Ellen Anderson and St. Paul Mayor Randy Kelly at the recent ground breaking ceremony for the Phalen Corridor initiative. McCollum has been actively involved in this revitalization project and its mission to connect communities, bring jobs, housing and environmental clean-up to St. Paul's East Side.

HIV/AIDS quote

"The passage of this bill marks a major step in the United States' leadership toward combating the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa and worldwide. The work continues with my colleagues in Washington and groups at home in Minnesota like the Minnesota AIDS Project on efforts to prevent this deadly disease from spreading. We now have a responsibility to monitor and implement this initiative to ensure our prevention efforts are successful in combating HIV/AIDS globally."

-- On the passage of HR 1298, the U.S. Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Act May 21, 2003

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